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# BRIEFER ARTICLES

## A NEW POISONOUS MUSHROOM

(WITH TWO FIGURES)

During last August I received from Dr. O. E. FISCHER, Detroit, Michigan, a few living plants of a species of *Tricholoma*, which he reports as causing several severe cases of poisoning. The specimens were sufficiently well-preserved for study and diagnosis, also for a photograph, and for casting spores for a photomicrograph. The plants are medium size, white in color with dull clay-colored tinge and stains in places. The plants are moist but not viscid, with the pileus minutely scaly but sub-tomentose over the center. The scales possess the darker color and under the hand lens some of them appear nearly black, but because of their minute size the dark color is not evident to the eye. The stems are sub-bulbous, the shape of the bulb being peculiar and resembling that of *Lepiota lenticularis*, which in side view is supposed to suggest the shape of a biconvex lens. The taste of the plants is mild, and no particular odor was observed in those received. The plants appear to be near to *Tricholoma pallidum* Pk. from Worcester, Mass., but differ in a number of particulars, as will be seen by a comparison of the diagnoses.

Before giving the technical diagnosis I quote the following from Dr. FISCHER's letter:

I am sending you a set of agarics of unusual interest and importance, for they are the ones that made seven people very ill in Rochester, Mich., on August 21. Violent and hemorrhagic vomiting, diarrhoea, sweating, and some cardiac disturbance were the symptoms, lasting several hours and coming on one hour after eating even of minute quantities. Some of the women are still suffering from intestinal disturbance. None that ate escaped; none died. I have spent considerable time and energy in taking two of the victims to the exact spot where they picked the offenders and got the cause of the trouble. It is a white-spored agaric, growing in open grassy woods on a leafy base, in clusters and groups. I should greatly appreciate a certain identification of this agaric, the more so since it looks, tastes, and smells inviting, and was "O.K.'d" by a member of our club.

***Tricholoma venenatum*** Atkinson, n. sp.—*Plants* 4–8<sup>cm</sup> high, pileus 4–7<sup>cm</sup> broad, stem 1–1.5<sup>cm</sup> thick, plants white with dull clay-colored tinge and stains; *pileus* moist not viscid, convex-expanded, subumbonate,

center fleshy, thin toward the margin, plane or subrepand, minutely scaly with fibrous scales, subtomentose area over center, surface pale buff

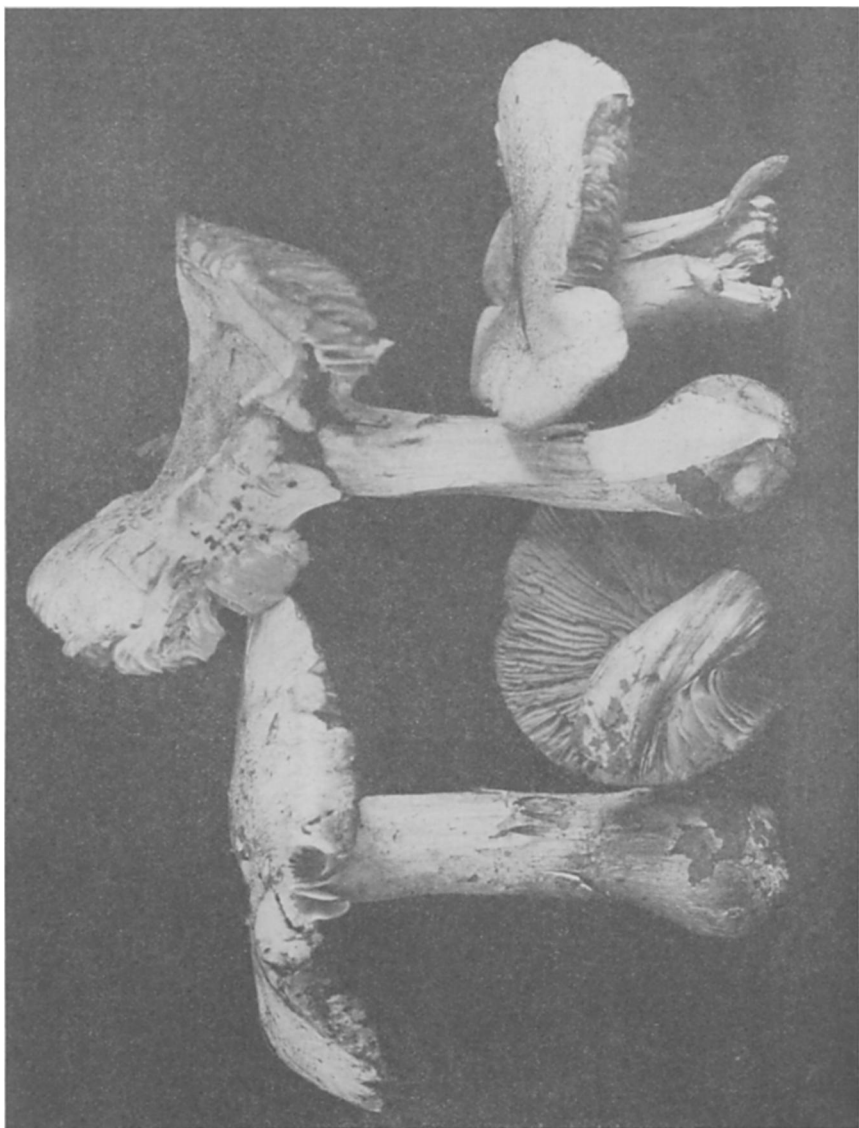


FIG. 1.—*Tricholoma venenatum* Atkinson.

to pale clay color, the scales possessing the darker color, under the lens some of them appear nearly black; *gills* adnexed, broadly sinuate, sub-

distant, whitish, thin, dull clay color especially where bruised; *spores* white, smooth, oval to broadly subelliptical,  $5-7 \times 3.5-5 \mu$ ; *cystidia* none; stems subbulbous with a bulb like that of *Lepiota lenticularis*, fibrous striate, solid, sordid white, becoming in age where handled dull clay color;

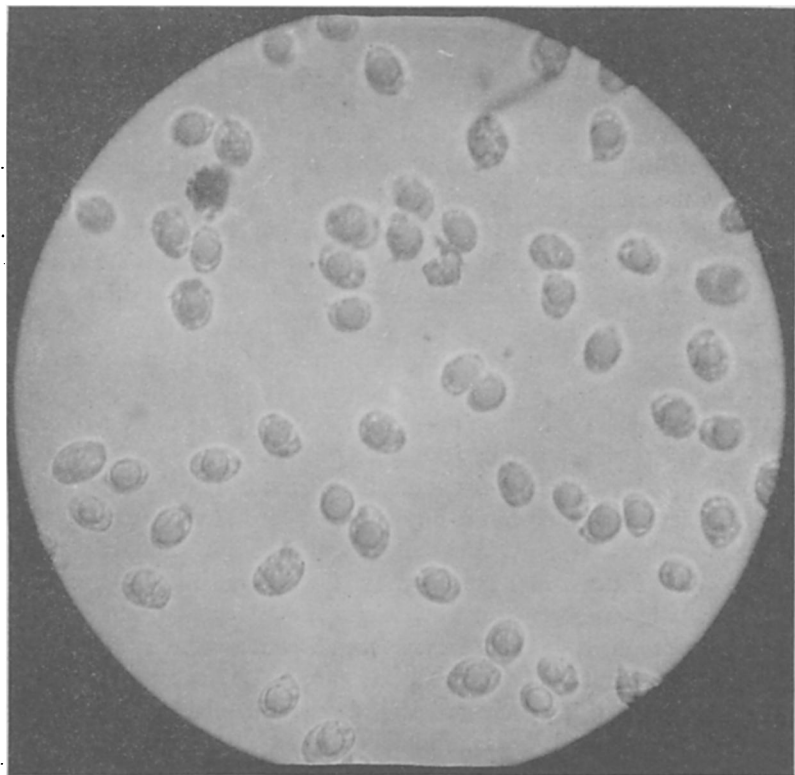


FIG. 2.—Photomicrograph of spores of *Tricholoma venenatum*; Zeiss ocular No. 18, objective 3mm; object 370mm from sensitive plate.

*odor* and *taste* mild.—No. 22573 C. U. Herb., from Dr. O. E. FISCHER, Detroit, Mich., received August 29, 1908.

(Sporophoro albo, leniter sordide luteo, 4-8<sup>cm</sup> longo, pileo 4-7<sup>cm</sup> lato, stipite 1-1.5<sup>cm</sup> crasso; pileo convexo-expanso, subumbonato, squamulis minutis obducto; lamellis adnexas, late sinuatis, tactu sordide luteis; sporis hyalinis, glabris, ovatis vel subellipsoideis,  $5-7 \times 3.5-5 \mu$ ; stipite subbulbo, fibroso-striato, tactu sordide luteo.)

GEO. F. ATKINSON, *Department of Botany, Cornell University.*